



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TOPEKA, KANSAS MAN SENTENCED FOR DISTRIBUTING CRACK COCAINE

TOPEKA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Maurice Cornail Ross**, 31, Topeka, Kansas, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Julie A. Robinson to **five years and ten months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by four years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Ross entered a guilty plea on June 27, 2003, to one count of distributing more than 5 grams (more than .18 ounce) of crack cocaine.

Melgren stated that on May 26, 1999, the Topeka Police Department Narcotics Unit was investigating drug distribution in Topeka. Through an individual working with the Topeka Police Department, officers arranged to purchase \$500 in crack cocaine and provided cash for the purchase. The cooperating individual arranged for the purchase of the crack cocaine and, a few minutes later, Ross drove to the Pine Ridge Apartment complex in Topeka and sold approximately 12.48 grams of crack cocaine for \$500. Ross admitted at his plea that on May 26, 1999, he sold approximately 12.48 grams (approximately .44 ounce) of crack cocaine.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Topeka Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney James Brown in this prosecution.